1.5.2 Consumption Comparisons in 2005

One quad equals:

- 49 million short tons of coal
  - = enough coal to fill a train of railroad cars 4,072 miles long (about one and a half times across the U.S.)
- 971 billion cubic feet natural gas
- 8 billion gallons of gasoline = 21 days of U.S. gasoline use
  - = 20.1 million passenger cars each driven 12,500 miles
  - = 17.2 million light-duty vehicles each driven 12,200 miles
  - = all new passenger cars and light-duty trucks sold, each driven 13,000 miles
  - = 13.1 million stock passenger cars, each driven 11,500 miles = 10% of all passenger cars, each driven 11,500 miles
  - = all new passenger cars each making 6 round-trips from New York to Los Angeles
- 172 million barrels of crude oil = 14.26 days of U.S. imports = 167 days of oil flow in the Alaska pipeline at full capacity
  - = the amount of crude oil transported by 484 supertankers
- 19 hours of world energy use
- the electricity *delivered* from 235 coal-fired power plants (200-MW each) in one year
- the electricity *delivered* from 37 nuclear power plants (1000-MW each) in one year
- average annual per capita consumption of 2.95 million people in the U.S.
- the approximate annual primary consumption of any one of the following states: Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, or West Virginia

Source(s): EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2008, Mar. 2008, Table A2, p. 117-119, Table A7, p. 129-130, Table A8, p. 131-132, Table A9, p. 133-134, Table A11, p. 136-137 for consumption, Table G1, p. 215 for heat rates; EIA, State Energy Data 2005: Consumption, Feb. 2008, Table S3, p. 5, Table R1, p. 13, and Table R2, p. 14; EIA, Electric Power Annual 2006, September 2007, Table 2.2, p. 19; EIA, International Energy Outlook 2008, June 2008, Table A1, p. 83; DOC, Statistical Abstract of the United States 2008, May 2008, No. 1031, p. 658, No. 1074, p. 686, and No. 1080, p. 690; and Newport News Shipbuilding Web site.